



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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August 31, 2006

Senator Tom Coburn, Chairman
Federal Financial Management Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3604

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your letter of July 27, 2006, requesting information on Congressionally-directed appropriations (or "earmarks"). While I would like to be responsive to your specific request, the University of Maryland submits nearly 3,000 proposals each year to federal and state agencies, foundations and corporations, both solicited and unsolicited. Each proposal describes a research project, its goals and objectives, its procedures/protocols and proposed outcomes, and proposed budget. Those proposals that are submitted in response to a federal appropriation are submitted to specific agencies and are not separately tracked, nor do they appear any different from other solicited or unsolicited proposal. We apply the same standards to all our externally-funded research. We monitor compliance to all federal and state regulations, ensuring contract and grant requirements are met, expect that results will be published in peer-reviewed journals, and that invention disclosures are to be made as appropriate.

This fall, I approved the *University of Maryland Guidelines on Peer Review and Congressional "Earmarks."* These Guidelines affirm our assessment that scientific peer review is the primary and best mechanism to allocate Federal research funds. Accordingly, it is the general practice of the University not to seek Congressionally-directed (or "earmarked") funds. In the future, if we choose to seek directed funding from Congress, the University requestor must demonstrate that all possible competitive-based options, both private and government, have been pursued; that no competitive program exists through which support can be obtained; and that the effort supports a state, regional or national initiative that fosters regional economic development and/or provides an important community/state/national service. All such requests must have the approval of the Vice President for Research, the Provost and the President.

If there are specific Congressionally-funded projects on which you would like information, we will be pleased to go back through our records and attempt to provide it.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Mote, Jr.
President